The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer, the host adapter allowing communication between the computer and a peripheral device connected to the host adapter, the method comprising:

generating a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface being configured to allow a user to access configuration settings of the host adapter;

managing the configuration settings of the host adapter by way of the graphical user interface to create configuration changes, the configuration changes being saved to a file in a storage location, the configuration changes being saved without being activated;

rebooting the computer, the rebooting using code having program instructions for locating the file having the saved configuration changes;

reading the configuration changes saved to the file in the storage location, the reading being performed during the rebooting of the computer;

writing the configuration changes to a nonvolatile memory of the host adapter of the computer, the writing being performed during the rebooting of the computer; and

activating the configuration changes for the host adapter during the rebooting of the computer so that the computer uses the configuration changes when communicating with the host adapter;,

wherein the ~~method is implemented in and integrated with the operating system of the computer~~ graphical user interface provides the user with a look and feel of system components visible and accessible through the operating system of the computer.

2. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

informing the user that the setting changes will not be available until the rebooting of the computer is complete; and

prompting the user to execute a reboot command.

3. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the managing the configuration of the host adapter includes:

determining what peripheral devices are connected to the host adapter.

4. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 1, wherein a host adapter icon represents the host adapter in the graphical user interface.

5. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 4, further comprising:

selecting the host adapter icon in the graphical user interface, the selecting of the host adapter icon being configured to provide access to the host adapter; and

selecting the host adapter icon in the graphical user interface, the selecting of the host adapter icon being configured to provide access to the peripheral devices connected to the host adapter.

6. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 5, wherein the selecting of the host adapter icon provides access to the configuration settings of the host adapter.

7. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 5, wherein the selecting of the host adapter icon provides access to diagnostic tools for managing the configuration of the host adapter.

8. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the host adapter is a SCSI host adapter

9. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 1, wherein a system BIOS of the computer reads the configuration changes saved to the file in the storage location.

10. (Original) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the storage location is defined in storage associated with one of a hard drive of the computer and a memory chip.

11. (Original) A method for managing the configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 10, wherein the system BIOS writes the configuration changes to an EEPROM of the host adapter.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer, the host adapter providing communication between the computer and a peripheral device connected to the computer, the method comprising:

generating a graphical user interface;

accessing and managing the configuration of the host adapter by way of the graphical user interface, the accessing and managing of the configuration including making changes to the configuration;

saving the changes to the configuration to a registry key, the changes to the configuration being saved without being activated;

receiving a command to reboot the computer;

executing the command to reboot the computer and initiating a reboot operation;

reading the changes to the configuration saved to the registry key during the reboot operation; and

writing the changes to the configuration to a nonvolatile memory of the host adapter of the computer during the reboot operation,

wherein the ~~method is implemented in and integrated with the operating system of the computer~~ graphical user interface provides the user with a look and feel of system components visible and accessible through the operating system.

13. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 12, wherein the initiating of the reboot operation includes shutting down all applications and all system devices.

14. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 13, wherein the reading of the changes to the configuration saved to the registry key is by a device driver at Ring 0 after the shutting down of all applications.

15. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 14, wherein the writing of the configuration changes to the nonvolatile memory of the host adapter of the computer is by the device driver at Ring 0 after the reading of the changes to the configuration saved to the registry key.

16. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 15, wherein the reboot operation includes shutting down of an operating system after the writing of the configuration changes to the nonvolatile memory of the host adapter and then an executing of a boot sequence by a system BIOS.

17. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

reading the configuration of the host adapter with the configuration changes by the system BIOS during the boot sequence; and

initializing the computer and the host adapter in accordance with the configuration of the host adapter with the configuration changes.

18. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 12, wherein the host adapter is a SCSI host adapter.

19. (Original) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

generating a host adapter icon in the graphical user interface, the host adapter icon being configured to provide graphical user interface driven access to the host adapter and any device connected to the host adapter;

informing the user that the configuration changes will not be available until the reboot operation is complete; and

prompting the user to select the command to reboot the computer.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling graphical user interface driven modifications of settings in an EEPROM associated with a SCSI host adapter connected to a computer, the method comprising:

displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface providing a list of selectable configuration options;

receiving user selections of change options provided by the list of selectable configuration options;

writing the user selections to a storage location, the writing being performed without activating the user selections;

initiating a reboot of the computer, the rebooting using code having program instructions for locating the storage location to read the user selections;

writing the user selections from the storage location to the EEPROM; and

completing the rebooting, the SCSI host adapter being configured to operate in accordance with the user selections;,

wherein the ~~method is implemented in and integrated with an operating system of the computer~~ graphical user interface provides a user with a look and feel of system components visible and accessible through the operating system of the computer.

21. (Original) A method for enabling graphical user interface driven modifications of settings in an EEPROM associated with a SCSI host adapter connected to a computer as recited in claim 20, wherein the graphical user interface includes selections to initiate diagnostic testing of the SCSI host adapter.

22. (Original) A method for enabling graphical user interface driven modifications of settings in an EEPROM associated with a SCSI host adapter connected to a computer as recited in claim 20, wherein the storage location is defined in storage associated with one of a hard drive of the computer and a memory chip.

23. (Original) A method for enabling graphical user interface driven modifications of settings in an EEPROM associated with a SCSI host adapter connected to a computer as recited in claim 20, wherein the graphical user interface is displayed following a selection of a SCSI host adapter icon.

24-34. Canceled.

35. (Previously presented) A method for managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 5, wherein access to the peripheral devices connected to the host adapter includes providing for configuration and management of the peripheral devices connected to the host adapter.

36. (Previously presented) A method for accessing and managing a configuration of a host adapter for a computer as recited in claim 19, wherein access to any device connected to the host adapter includes providing for configuration and management of any device connected to the host adapter.